









THE  
ANCESTRY AND HISTORY  
OF THE  
BUHRER FAMILIES



WRITTEN BY  
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WASHINGTON, D. C.

Introduction

No two leaves on a tree are exactly alike, much less two members, even of the same family, are alike in their experiences on their pilgrimage through this life. If every Buhrer deceased, had, prior to his departure, written his own biography, these would be as manifold as their number. Mysterious are the paths each one of us travels in this life through joy and sadness, light and darkness.

This family history is written in compliance with a request. When the writer in the summer of 1909 for the first time attended the Buhrer-family Reunion, in Archbold, Ohio, where he made an address, several members urged that a family history be compiled. A resolution was carried to the effect, and the writer was challenged to shoulder the task. After some deliberation and much hesitancy he consented. He then obtained the consent of his mind to superintend the efforts of those who consented to aid him. We had no idea of the gravity of the responsibility. There were no "J" or "P" or any other original documents known. This was the first effort at a chronicle of this family. After six years of persistent and laborious correspondence with kith and kin in the old and new worlds, sufficient facts were accumulated for the first draft submitted in the German language. This was circulated among the older families, supplimented, and received the cordial approbation of the reunion in 1915. Another resolution of the same body to the effect was carried that this, together with all possible additional material pertinent, be translated and published in the English language. A publishing committee consist-



ing of five members, the Misses Sophie and Anna, Messrs. J. S., William and J. D. Buhrer, was then authorized to raise the necessary funds, and to proceed with the publication.

Special credit is due to Miss Anna Buhrer, who with years of persistent and untiring efforts compiled most of the genealogical tables. The writer's influence at the Swiss Legation in Washington, D. C., gave him access to some valuable authentic books of the canton of Schaffhausen, Switzerland.

We realized that the genealogical sections are very defective. It was a colossal task to classify these names and families, and we must leave the perfecting of them to the editor of a future edition, when some families will take more interest and answer the compilers' questions.

In the performance of his task, it is assumed the author will be pardoned for any exhibition of family pride. Self-respect is essential to human nobility. Self-congratulation prompted Mother Eve already to say, "I have begotten a man from the Lord." No apology is necessary for anything good indited in this book of the Buhrer family. The Irishman conceded that the best part of his crop of potatoes was under the ground, but we claim that the best of us are above the stars. We boast not as descendants from the loins of royalists that sat on monarchs' thrones, but higher still is our origin; rather children are we of those who by grace have gone to glories unfading.

In memory of grateful recollection to our departed do we dedicate this volume. Their souls are in bliss, their bodies rest in Mother Earth, but their works still live (perhaps not indicated in this book), for in God and Godly men do we put our faith.

"From no estate do proud distinctions rise,  
Act well your part—there all your honor lies."

The sources of our information are: (1) conversations and correspondence with older members of the family; (2) five volumes of "Urkunden-register der Schweiz"; (3) "Geschichte des Canton Schaffhausen."

Washington, D. C., 1916.

JAMES D. BUHRER.

REMAINED AS  
WASHINGTON  
MINISTER TO  
DEC. 6, 1939  
DEATH AT 72



# History of the Buhrer Family

## CHAPTER I

### Characteristics of the Buhrers

Our family is remarkable for its great age. It is rooted deeply in the earliest history of past centuries. It was included in the promise of Jehovah made to Abraham: "In thy seed all the families of the earth shall be blest." It is very probable that for this reason so many lads and lassies have always been anxious to marry into the Buhrer clan. And this is to their everlasting credit—that they know a good thing when they see it. It also shows wisdom on their part when they sought to be grafted upon such a branch.

But the Buhrer family has also heeded the divine command: "Be ye fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth." It is for this reason that our ancestors, 4,000 years ago, left Asia and migrated into Europe to clear a place for their posterity.

There are several good reasons why this family was so prolific. Our grandmothers did not live in an age when babies were unfashionable and poodle dogs a substitute for children. Our ancestors regarded wedlock as something very sacred and required children. Without them the family is as the bud without the flower, the night without stars. Neither did they pet their children to death. They were too industrious for that. They exercised judicial parental authority. The children lived with the parents, and not visa versa. They practiced domestic discipline. (The writer has a good memory and a vivid recollection of this fact.) Instead of swinging us in a hammock or wheeling us in a baby chaise, our mothers tossed us into a trundle bed and continued to do their own work without a nurse or other servants. Thus raised, we were trained early to fall back on our own resources

for pastime, play, and work. We were never starved on so-called "baby foods," but fed on substantial food, uncondensed, and never learned to suck it out of bottles. The writer has, since the fourteenth year of his life, been away from home, with strangers, in hotels, boarding houses, and oft dined at tables good enough for princes, but he appreciates still above all the "Boella—Duenna,—grund—Bierra—Suppa," and other viands of his mother's cooking, that made him strong and kept him healthy.

Honesty is the pride of our people, and self-respect a virtue. Theft never brought any of them to jail, nor does the writer know of one that let the alcohol thief into his mouth to steal away his brain. Our boys belong to the masculine, and our girls to the feminine gender. Many of them have held honorable, high, and responsible positions in human society—some in the professional world, others in the business and agricultural.

The grave questions now confront us: Are we worthy of such ancestry? Are we acting well our part? Do we emulate the virtues of our fathers? "We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses," that are peering down upon us from five centuries.

Oh, how this thought should inspire us at all times to do the best with that bestowed upon each of us to the blessing of mankind and the glory of God. For our pilgrimage will also terminate. Then may every chapter in the great Book of Life speak of our task well done, having been faithful even in small things entrusted to us.



## CHAPTER II

### Our Early History

The Buhrers believe in the evolution of the human race, even though they reject the theory of Huxley, for we came not from the zoological, but from the garden of Eden where the Creator made man. Should any one doubt this, let him provoke a Buhrer and behold how much of the "old Adam" crops out of him. We descended from Adam, not through Cain, who went off into the "Land of Nod to raise cain," but through Seth, Enoch and Noah. And when a dispatch from the weather bureau announced the flood, they knew enough to go out of the rain.

After the deluge, they followed the setting sun, tarried for some time in the highlands of Asia, then wheeled to the north and by the sea passed over the Don into Europe. Being persecuted here, they fled over the mountain fortresses of the Alps and settled at the foot of the Rhine-falls. Here our ancestors saw for the first time, fifteen years before the birth of Jesus, a legion of Roman soldiers. Many ruins of the old Roman walls and inscriptions on rocks here have been excavated in recent times, which testify to the 150 years of Roman tyranny and destruction, with which our ancestors had to contend.

A Roman historian says of these settlers: "They were distinguished for an indomitable will and love of liberty. Their rulers were elective with power limited. Unlike surrounding nations, they were monogamists." After Caesar Domitian had subjugated them unto himself, he built a wall "Randen" around the district as a fortification against invaders from the north. Here is where our forefathers subsequently helped to raise William Tell and to dig the grave of tyrant Gessler, and then establish the republic of civil and religious liberty, which, for nigh 500 years, has withstood the attacks of despotism.

## CHAPTER III

### Our District (Bezirk) Hegau

Julius Caesar relates how the Swiss repeatedly checked his forward movements. In 313 A. D., they were driven back to the river Main. Caesar calls them "Helvetians," and describes them thus: "They are a people of high stature and slender, with curly blond hair, blue eyes and fair complexion. They comb their heavy shock of hair straight back over the head, then tie it into a knot, which gives the appearance of a horn. Long hair is the sign of freemen. Bondsmen always have their hair cut. Their children wear no clothes so long as the weather permits." Invading Roman armies constantly plundered and demolished the district and their huts, which were built in the shape of bee hives. This forced them eventually into a closer union with the neighboring Alemanni, whereby they were enabled to restore again their Garden of the Gods.

By and by this district—Randen (Ruecken, Marshweg,) repaired in the days of Charlemagne—was divided into two "Gauen," or territories, namely: (1) Klettgau, which extended from the Rheinfalls downward, and (2) Hegau, from the Falls upward; "he" being the root of "hoch," i. e., high, while "klett" means ("glatt eben" or) smooth, plain.

Up to the 11th century A. D., surnames of families were unknown among them, so that, when a father's name was Gailo or Bero, the son was called Gailinge or Beringe, "inge" meaning link, from which the following villages (where the various families multiplied) received their names: Gächlingen, Herblingen, Tütlingen, Loehlingen, Doerflingen, etc.

In course of time, however, these two districts were made feifs, ruled by counts of Austria. The Romish



Church, from the 6th to the 12th century in its mission work here, acquired large sections of land attached to cloisters, of which the following became famous: "Allerheiligen," "St. Agnes," "Paradies" (in Schaffhausen) and the cloister in "Katherinenthal (in Diesenhofen).

In time these institutions received preemptory rights, which made them independent of the rule of Austrian counts, and they were then ruled by abbots of the cloisters. Since, however, these landlords could not inflict capital punishment, an advocatus—"vogt"—attended to the temporal affairs of the abbey. These advocati became so tyrannical, after a while, that frequent riots from the 12th to the 15th century finally removed them from their power. But even then the greater portion of the common people voluntarily remained bondsmen for their protection against invading tribes. These serfs or bondsmen belonged to the cloisters and were bought and sold together with the land that they tilled.

## CHAPTER IV

### Papal Influence

The Franks in 500 B. C. describe the Alemanni as a low heather tribe. A Roman writer in 570 A. D. says: "Their religion is pantheistic. They worship trees, rivers, mountains, and gorges, to which they offer horses and other animals after they have cut off their heads." But through the influence and rule of the Franks, these Alemannic customs were changed. The bishop of Constanzt sent Swiss-speaking missionaries into the Hegau who often used force to convert these heathen. The converted would then call their former comrades "Rossfresser," horse eaters, because they ate the horse flesh that had been offered to idols.

This missionary activity was only superficial. Our ancestors could not yet grasp the idea that all men are brothers, and so, in the eighth century, they mixed the two religions, heathen and Roman Catholic, with all kinds of superstition and witchcraft.



## CHAPTER V

### Religion

As a rule the Buhrers are Christians and church-going people, but it has never been heard of that one of them died on account of too much piety. They believe in the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood in Christ, and the communion of believers, and they build Christian homes and churches wherever they go.

Christianity first reached them in the person of Columba, who came over from England in the sixth century. They rose with the first reformers in the sixteenth century to liberate their church (then Roman Catholic) from its heresies in doctrine and corruptions in practice, and reestablished the church in its apostolic simplicity and purity, and called it the Church Reformed, or the Reformed Church. This work they began in 1513, three years before Luther appeared in Germany. "Reformed" was, for a long time, the battle cry of Protestantism in Europe. But as different modes of theological thought began to gain strength, producing various doctrinal tendencies, and various types of national life began to stamp themselves on the Reformed faith, the inevitable result was the shooting out of different branches. These called themselves not after Paul, Apollo, or Cephas, but after either a party leader (Luthern), a mode of administering a sacrament (Baptist), or a form of government (Presbyterian). In Switzerland, the church had no eccentric forces to shoot itself away from the stem, and so was left with no other mission than to perpetuate the life of the root along the grand central trunk line of Protestant history, of which nearly all the Buhrers are members.

## CHAPTER VI

### Three Hundred Years of Servitude

Great social and political changes took place in Hegau from the years 719 to 1050 A. D. The freemen became bondsmen. The ownership of the soil passed from the hand of the tillers into the possession of the counts and cloisters. Only a few of them who had possessions and rendered great military service retained their freedom, and were known as the nobles among the victors.

The farming was done by the bondsmen, and regarded a dishonorable vocation. The nobles lived in castles on cliffs and other elevated, choice spots, while the bondsmen dwelt in the villages of the lowlands and were oppressed by tributes.

Our earlier ancestors avoided cities, regarding them as pesthouses, and for this reason often destroyed them. Later the inhabitants of cities looked down upon the villagers as inferior beings. And so our Swiss forefathers in the middle of the eleventh century were no longer a united people, but a mixture of lords, nobles, and serfs.

In 788 Count Kuno of Oehningen near Bibern, established a convent, and made the whole surrounding country a serfdom. Gradually the whole Hegau and Klettgau became possessions of the abbies under the rule of advocati, or vögte. The convents, Allerheiligen, St. Agnes, Paradies, and Katherinenthal became famous in history for the wealth of land and subjects which they gradually acquired.

In 1330 the whole district up and down the Rhine from the Falls was mortgaged to the Austrian government, and continued to be its subject until 1415, when, by the grant of King Sigmund, this district became a baronage (1454-1525).



## CHAPTER VII

### Our Canton

Schaffhausen, in some of the annals (1050 A. D.) is also called Schafhusun, and Schafhusensi. In a history of the reign of King Conrad III, this city is called Oppidani, which meant castledwellers; and in 1067 Count Edward of Nellenberg in Köln (Cologne) received the right from Kaiser Henry III to make coins "for villa Scafusen in Klettgau."

In 1146 the great agitator of the second Crusade, Bernard of Clairveaux visited Schaffhausen. He was received with great ovation and the ringing of all the bells in the city. He was expected to perform miracles. Only few, however, followed him to the land of Mohammed for the purpose of rescuing the Holy grave from barbarous hands.

Hedwig, a nun, in 1125 brought with her to this city from the Holy Land, a relic. Under the date of 1202 the annals record a pedestrian journey to Jerusalem which was taken by several inmates of the convent, Allerheiligen.

In the twelfth century, Schaffhausen developed into an independent city (Freistadt), and in the following century it is described, "a city with walls, towers, plazas, and a woden bridge over the Rhine." Of the many immigrants into the city I found also the names of Murbach and Schaad. By request of Henry VIII of Germany, this city formed an alliance with Constanz, Zurich, and St. Gall for mutual protection "against unjust demands." But in 1415 Schaffhausen again became a city of independence, and together with surrounding villages was made a confederacy. Then, for eighty-five long years Schaffhausen was an Austrian city until, in 1501, it was made a Swiss canton.

## CHAPTER VIII

### The Reformation in the Canton, Schaffhausen

Where would we be had the church not been reformed of its heresies, and renovated from its corruptions in practice in that great movement of the 16th century? The origin of the Reformation here was the same as in other lands, but the way it was done is more like a family drama.

In this narrow valley, our forefathers maintained three convents, and by building and supporting them they hoped to receive absolution from their sins. The writings of Luther were known here before those of Zwingli. The young, enthusiastic, converted monk of Luzern, Dr. Hofmeister, was their first and great preacher of the principles of the Reformation. In 1525 another missionary came from Zurich, the Reverend Mr. Oéchslin. With his installation, the end of papal influence was sealed. The cloisters were burned, and the Confederacy aided the Protestant teacher materially in the victories against the Pope.



## The Years of Horror

1611 is the year of pestilence. In one of the chronicles I found this record: "On a Tuesday between nine and ten o'clock a. m., an hot, poisonous, depressing breeze came up the valley, which so affected the harvesters that they all hurried home. Immediately upon this unnatural breeze there followed a terrible disease that carried away thousands of people in less than six months."

Another record says: "1629-1633 were to us years of war and devastation by the invasion of Germans. Famine, confusion, and social disorders vied with each other. We could not expect aid from the Confederacy, our territory being located beyond the Rhein, which formed the natural boundary of protection. And so we could do nothing but submit and endure the abuses of all the enemies in order to avoid war with them, sharing our bread and roof now with these and then with the opposite warring forces." There was no question of neutrality. Any resistance offered to the soldiers was met with a deadly weapon.

But even in the midst of this devastation, our forefathers did not forget their oppressed brethren of the faith in the Palatinate (Pfalz), and twice do we read of a collection which they lifted for them. The record continues: "In consequence of the terrible persecution of the Protestants in France, thousands of Huguenots came into canton, Schaffhausen, some to remain permanently, others to rest on their long journey to Holland. The first came in 1686, namely, 5,242, and in 1687 over 9,000 more arrived. In 1688 another 4,506 came, and so the stream continued for nearly thirty years, down to 1706. They were all received cordially, and fed until they continued their journey. Nearly all of them spoke only French, but they were



all Protestants. This condition often required twelve special collections in one year from us. As high as 40,000 persecuted brethren in the faith were supported. Those who passed through into Germany in 1688 were soon driven back by the war. There was great rejoicing among us when Gustav Adolphus appeared in Germany at the head of Protestantism. During all this time the Kaiser's army appeared five times at our neighboring castle, Hohentwiel, but they never could force a surrender."

## CHAPTER X

## Genealogy of the Families from the Villages in the Hegau

The first problem of a family history is its origin, then its migration. In these problems the names of places are bound up with the history of the people. The author has reduced these original places in his search to four.

Space will not permit me to give a detailed account of the social, political and economic conditions in these villages that were the original homes of the Bahrers, as found in the archives of the canton of Schaffhausen. We must confine ourselves to but a few cardinal facts and events of each village. In the *Urkundenregister von Canton Schaffhausen* under the date of 1305, is this record: "*Cunrat and Katherina Buerrer are bondsmen of the cloister, Katherinenthal.*"

### Section I: Stettin

It is in connection with this village that I found the above record concerning C. and K. Buerrer in 1305. At this time Stettin was a part of the estate belonging to the castle Herblingen, as a grant from Egbert the Red of Randenburg. In the fifteenth century, however, it was sold to the cloister, Allerheiligen. A statistic of 1798 says that this village consisted of eighteen houses, with a population of forty-seven men and ninety-three women and children.

### Section II: Bibern

Bibern, in the valley of the same name a few miles north of Thayingen, in 875 A. D. was called Piberaha, and in 959 Bibera. Bibern, together with Oehningen (a village now belonging to the province Baden) belonged to the cloister Paradies, but in the days when



knighthood was in bloom it was part of the castle Herblingen, where the nobles of Herblingen flourished.

In 1534 Bibern, together with Herblingen, was incorporated into the Canton Schaffhausen. Statistics of 1798 (during the French Revolution) give this record of Bibern: There are 27 houses, with a population of 53 men and 11 women and children. The census of 1869 gives it a population of 197.

Following is the genealogical record of the Buhrers from Bibern.

I. MICHAEL BUHRER, born 1797, was the father of—

I. M. BUHRER, Jr., who in the 22d year of his life emigrated to America (1854), and cast his lot with the Swiss pioneers in the forests of Fulton County, O. He was united in holy wedlock (1856) with Elizabeth Buhrer, of Hofen. This union was blest with 7 children. The writer well recalls many happy days of his childhood spent in their beautiful Christian family circle. The father was a genial patriarch of worth and dignity, a tall gaunt figure, while his helpmate was a gentle, most hospitable motherly character. Their children do well in emulating their virtues and cherishing their memory. The father departed this life in the 75th year of his pilgrimage, and the mother survived only a few months. Their children are:

(1) URSALA, who was married to Adam Sprau, to whom she bore five children and then departed to her heavenly home.

(2) HEINRICH, now residing in Toledo, is the happy father of four sons: Herald, Nelson, Myron, Roland.

(3) HANNAH, Mrs. Kohl, in Swanton, O.

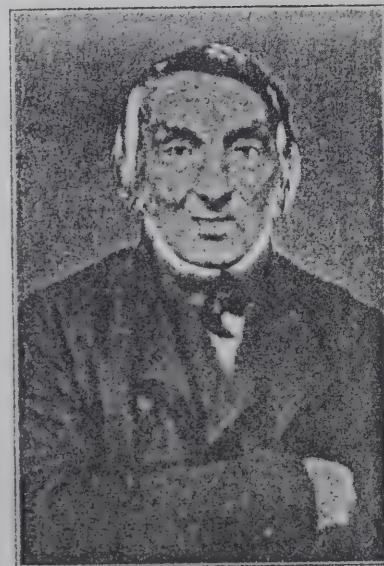
(4) MARY, Mrs. Kutzli, in Archbold, O.

(5) CAROLINE, Mrs. Andrew Buhrer, of Evansport, O.

(6) ELIZABETH, Mrs. ———.

(7) MARGARET, who resides in Archbold, O.

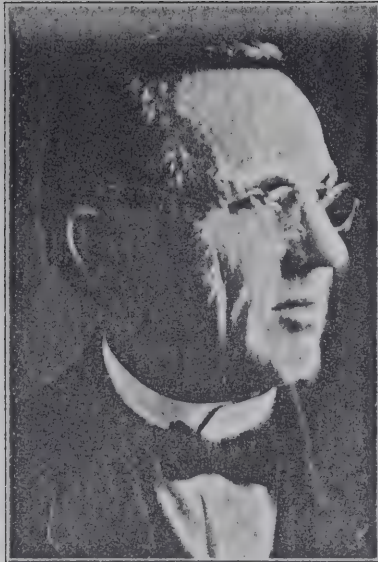
2. JOHANNES, born 1825; was married to Anna Metzger in 1848. They also came to America (1881), and settled in Illinois. Following are their children: (1) ANNA, Mrs.



MICHAEL BUEHRER, SR.  
BIBERN, Switzerland

*Opfershofen page 42*





REV. WM. BUEHRER  
San Antonio, Texas



REV. WM. BUEHRER AND FAMILY  
San Antonio, Texas

Rothfus, of Texas. (2) URSALA, Mrs. Mary J. Metzger. (3) MRS. LOUISE J. EHRAT, of Illinois.

3. JACOB, born 1828, and still resides in Bibern, with his children, Jacob and Ursala.

II. HAFNER BUHRER, was a cooper by trade and lived all his allotted time in Bibern. His children are:

1. JACOB (born 1820, died 1876), married to Anna Metzger, of Opfershofen. To them were born:

(1) KONRAD (died 1889), married to Eliz. B., of Thayingen. They were blest with four children: Jacob, John, Mary, William.

(2) JACOB (born 1839), married to Verena Buhner, of Bibern. They were blest with five children: Jacob, John, Mary, Kerman and Emil.

(3) ANNA (born 1851), Mrs. K. Hartman, of Heilbrun.

(4) MARY, died 1873.

(5) JOHANN (born 1858), was married to Phoebe Fluth. Their seven children are: Reinhart, Friederich, Wilhelm, Katharina, Edwin, George and Walter.

(6) URSALA, Mrs. Alex. Fuchs.

(7) WILHELM (born 1859), married to Lydia Mehr, of Kalsruhe, Germany. They came to America in 1883. After four years sojourn in Archbold, O., they migrated further west to cast their lot with German settlers in Texas, where he prepared for the ministry and is at the present time the efficient pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in San Antonio, Texas. Their four children are, Ida, Emma, Theophil and Perle.

(8) FRIEDRICH (born 1867), married to Caroline M., of Bern, Switzerland.

III. JOHANNES BUHRER (1808-1884), was rope maker by trade, and married Elizabeth B. They emigrated to Ohio in 1873. Unto this union were born seven children:

THEOPHIL BUEHRER WOULD BE IN WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA  
UNTIL MID-1960S. DIED IN ARIZONA IN 1974 AGE 82



1. JOHANNES, who came to America in 1837 and spent his days as a very capable architect in Cleveland, O.

2. GEORGE, a brick-maker by trade, came to Archbold, O., in 1873.

3. ANDREAS, the mason, came from Bibern to Archbold, O., in 1872. In 1873 he was married to Anna Dunkel. To them were born Emma, Ida, and John.

4. GOTTLIEB (born 1851), came to America in 1870, and became a well-known sculptor in Berea, O. He was married to Kath. Ehrat, which union was blest with five children: Katherin, of Medina, O., Elizabeth, Emma and Helen, of Cleveland, and John (died 1891).

IV. CLEMENZ BUHRER (born 1765), had three children:

1. JOHANNES (born 1808), who emigrated to America, while his brother GEORGE and sister LISETTA remained in Bibern.

V. GEORGE BUHRER, a tailor by trade, is known to have raised nine children in Switzerland. They are:

JACOB, GEORGE, FRIEDERICH, MAGDALENA, a deaconess in Basel, ELIZABETH, MARGARET, ANNA, URSALA and ANDREAS, who came to New York (in beginning of the 19th century) and became a prosperous cigar manufacturer.

VI. ANDREAS BUHRER, the vinedresser, was born 1780; married Barbara Ruehli of Barzheim. Unto them were born:

1. JOHN, the mason.

2. ANDREAS, the shoemaker.

3. ADAM, the vine-dresser, who was married to Elizabeth Waldvogel in 1825. The names of their children are: An-



JOHN BUEHRER  
Cleveland, O.



ANDREAS E. BUEHRER  
Archbold, O.



GOTTLLOB BUEHRER  
Berea, Ohio

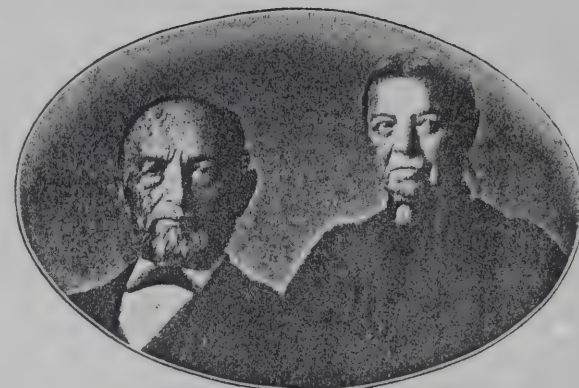


6. MRS. F. HOFFMAN and

7. MRS. L. SCHRODER. *ARNOS*

VII. ANDREAS, the shoemaker, was married to Anna Ehrat of Lohn, in 1839. After the death of his wife and in the advanced age of 74, he followed his two sons in America, who provided so well for him that he reached the age of 84 years, when the call from another world came. The descendants of this family are:

1. ANDREW D., who was born 1840. He began his career in young manhood, in the service of the Swiss Government, taking care of the highways in his Canton. In this service he continued seven years. During this time he was united in holy wedlock with Verena Sigg, of Doerflingen. Four children were born to them, when the Franco-Prussian war broke out, which called father into service of defense on the Swiss boundaries. After his return home he regarded the approaching effects of the war, the congested conditions in Switzerland, and the small opportunities the Fatherland could some day offer to his children, as urgent reasons for emigration. When these problems had been discussed and weighed, father and mother resolved to find a place in the new world beyond the great deep, where they might effectually accomplish their divine purpose. Here begins the history of the author on vaguely familiar grounds, for he was one of these four children in whose interest parents bade farewell to home, kindred and friends, never to see them again in this world. There hangs on the wall of my memory but one scene of this portentous event—a beautiful starry night, house full of people, everyone sad and depressed, with tears in their eyes. Then a carriage appeared—. The next scene on the wall of memory is an event one year later, father terribly ill in a little home in Archbold, O.; friends and mother solicitous for his life; the physician appearing three times in one day—and the third scene on memory's walls of childhood, from an event of



MR. AND MRS. ANDREW D. BUHRER  
Archbold, O.

*1* *1*  
*1840* *1838*  
*1920* *1939*

FROM THIS FAMILY —

NO BUHRER SURNAME FAMILY  
MEMBERS LIVE IN OHIO OR THIS AREA



drew, the wheelwright, Barbara, Johannes, Maria (died 1852 in Toledo, O.), Jacob (died 1909), Heinrich (died 1912).

4. KATHERINA.

5. JOHANNES, who with his son Adam, and daughter Katherine, remained in Bibern. But the two older sons, Andrew and John, came to America in 1854.

The author well remembers "DER GROSSE ANDRES"—the bachelor—and how we as children delighted to have him visit our little log hut in Henry County, O., for he always had "candy" in his pockets, and heroic stories to tell us about the Civil War, where he was a volunteer for four years. While the government gave him a reasonable pension, in the last five or ten years, with very enfeebled health, he was taken care of in the home of his brother John, where he died in 1910.

JOHN had a family and three children in the woods of Henry County, when the civil war broke out, and continued to fight primeval conditions, malaria and hunger, and provide for the future. In course of time he acquired a large tract of land which he was able to cultivate by the aid of his five growing-up sons. It was at their home where the author spent many happy days of his childhood, for the mother understood boys and the father was a large hearted, whole soul, and really the founder of the Buhrer Reunion, for which he worked persistently, and was privileged to see it becoming a growing annual affair ere he went to his heavenly reward in 1912, soon after the departure of his loyal helpmate, Barbara. This union was blest with the following children:

1. ANDREW, born 1858, who is married to Caroline B., and resides in Henry County, O., a prosperous farmer.

2. JOSEPH, who is also raising a family on a farm in Henry County, O.

3. GEORGE, married to a sister of the writer, and has five children, and resides on a farm in Defiance County, O.

4. HENRY, followed his brothers' example, while

5. DANIEL took a higher course of study in Calvin College, Cleveland, O., and then settled as a merchant in Stryker, O., while their two sisters are



MR. AND MRS. JOHN BUEHRER  
Evansport, O.



three years later. Mother and we children alone at home—father some twelve miles away in service to provide for our daily bread—sitting at dinner table. A thunder storm breaks over the village, pitch darkness prevails. Has the end of all things come? but none of us dared to speak.

Our journey from Switzerland, says father, was through France to Paris, where we were treated with scorn until it was known that we were not subjects of the Kaiser, but emigrants from Switzerland. Whereupon we were treated with the greatest courtesy and consideration. The voyage on the water was twenty-eight days. From Castle Garden by rail via Buffalo and Cleveland, we arrived on an early morning in April in the village of Archbold, O., whither over 300 Swiss families had preceeded us. In the land of new customs, manners, habits and language, how were we to succeed? Two days after the arrival father was employed. By and by he learned the trade as a mason, for a road inspector for Uncle Sam in those days had no mission. In 1879 he decided the farm was the best place to raise the children. So we moved nine miles away from the nearest trading station into the woods of Henry County, O., and lived in a three-room log cabin with only one field of soil under cultivation. Berries, game and nuts were in abundance in the summer, but in the winter it was often hard to keep the wolf of hunger from the door. It was years of hard labor to clear away the woods and burn up the finest timber to make the soil arable for harvest. The winter evenings were spent with mother and father around the old stove, together with a few books: the Bible, hymnals, few classics and books on history, for father was a persistent reader, and mother knew how to tell us fascinating stories and almost invariably beat any one of us on a game of "figmill." In 1880 father traded his lowland in Henry County for a tract of land in Defiance County, O., and we returned to civilization. Father was no longer obliged to spend half the year away from home, but with the aid of the growing children produced sufficient for existence on the farm, and so took the great burden of management from mother's shoulders.



Twenty years later, the children all grown up and out in the world seeking their own missions in life, father sold the farm and moved to the town, where he had landed in 1871. There with mother in a cozy little home they are spending the evening of a well earned rest in retirement. Our family circle was made up of the following children, for whose welfare father and mother spent their lives:

(1.) LIZZIE, who in 1886 was married to Daniel Snyder. They still reside in Archbold. Their children are: Emanuel, Nora and Bertha.

(2.) JAMES D., who, after having finished the district schools, inspired by a K. Sigg and a Van Bora, a naturalist who made his home with our parents for many summers as he was gathering material for a botanical book on the flora of northwestern Ohio, and encouraged by his parents, in 1883, together with three of his former school boys, entered Calvin College in Cleveland, O., for a higher education. After pursuing the classic course under the direction of that peerless educator, Dr. H. J. Ruetenick, he graduated an A.B. The next two years he spent in the Theological Seminary of Heidelberg University, Tiffin, O.

During the following year he took a post-graduate course at Heidelberg and as a licentiate assisted Dr. H. Rust, the pastor of the Second Reformed Church, of which he then was elected pastor in the spring of 1893—Dr. Rust resigned on account of failing health. In this capacity he continued—at times also teaching in Heidelberg University—for eleven years, when he followed a call from the First Reformed Church in Washington, D. C., of which congregation he is the pastor incumbent.

One of the chief events in his life occurred in 1897, when he was united in holy wedlock with Miss Mary E. Leiner, the daughter of C. Leiner, for fifty years a leading merchant in Tiffin O. She has always proved herself a wise, judicious mistress of the parsonage, a model mother, and excellent housekeeper. Her ears are not in tune with the blasts so commonly blown for the worlds applause.



JAMES D. BUHRER AND FAMILY  
Washington, D. C.

REV. BUHRER'S SON PAUL  
WAS IN WHO'S WHO IN MD  
1860S. NOW IN RETIREMENT  
ON CAPE COD.



"Nor needs she power and splendor,  
Wide hall and lofty dome,  
The good, the true, the tender—  
These live and love at home."



DR. EMIL D. BUHRER AND FAMILY  
Urbana, O.



MR. CONRAD KUTZLI AND FAMILY  
Goodwin, Mo.

In her dealings with fellowmen, rich or poor, she is always strictly fair, and tolerates no compromise with sham. She is well worthy of being the mother of our two children, Edna M., born 1898, and Paul M., born 1901, both at present pursuing the classic course in a high school of the Capital.

(3.) BERNHARD, in search for his vocation, began his career in the employment of the Rockefeller Oil Co., then became partner of a bakery in Joplin, Mo., where he was married to Lydia Kohler. Here he still resides, the father of two children.

(4.) ADOLPH chose the carpenter's trade, was married to M. Clark, who died in 1908. He has since also made his home in Joplin, Mo.

(5.) EMIL was educated in the district schools, Heidelberg University, and the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati. He graduated an M. D. in 1902. He is now an efficient and very successful physician in Urbana, O. In 1909 he was married to Mabel Miller. They rejoice in a bright little daughter, Helen.

(6.) HENRY began his career as an adventurer, wandering through nearly every state in the Union, then settled down in Joplin, Mo., as a mail clerk in the service of Uncle Sam. He is married since 1909 to Grace E. Tatlock, and is the father of two children, John Andrew and Henry, Jr.

(7.) LYDIA is married to Geo. Buhrer. They reside on their farm in Defiance County, O. Their children are: Alice, Nora, Melvin, Edwin, Selma.

(8.) EMMA is married the second time (her first husband Oliver Buhrer died in 1905), to C. Ziegler. They reside in Archbold, O. Her children of the first husband are: Mable and Clayton.

(9.) Anna, the youngest of the girls, is married to K. Kutzli. They reside in Joplin, Mo. Their children are: Edwin, Meta, Ruth, Allen, Bonnie, Glen.



2. JOHANNES stayed in Switzerland.

3. JACOB S., born 1848, came to America with his bride in 1873. He is a carpenter by trade, but the business world soon attracted his social, cheerful, nature, and fondness for human fellowship. He is for more than thirty years a business man in Archbold, O. His children are:

(1) MARTHA, Mrs. Rice: Her husband died in 1903, leaving her one child, William.

(2) ALBERT E., a law student in Archbold, married to Laura Vernier. They have one child, Catherine.

(3) EDWARD E., a dentist in Archbold.

(4) LOUISE F., at home.

(5) ERNA L., clerk in the post office of her home town.

4. HEINRICH, still in Bibern.

VIII. JOHANNES BUHRER, born 1844; married to Katherine B., and emigrated to United States in 1854; locating, first, in Fulton County, then in Henry County, where they spent the rest of their lives with the pioneers.

1. JOHN ("Seiler") who was ten years of age when he came with parents from Switzerland. In 1861 he enlisted in Company I, of the Sixty-seventh Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served under Generals Shields (in W. Va.), and McClellan; was at the siege of Charleston and in the battle at Richmond. After the surrender at Appomattox, he did guard duty until December, 1865, when he was mustered out with rank as sergeant, and returned home. In 1868 he married Rosina Stucky and began to cultivate his farm with great skill and success. He also took great and official interest in the public institutions of his county. In 1910 he retired from his farm and died within the same year. To them the following surviving children were born, all living in Ohio:

(1.) Albert, is married and has three children, Inez, Albert and Edwin.

(2.) Katherine.

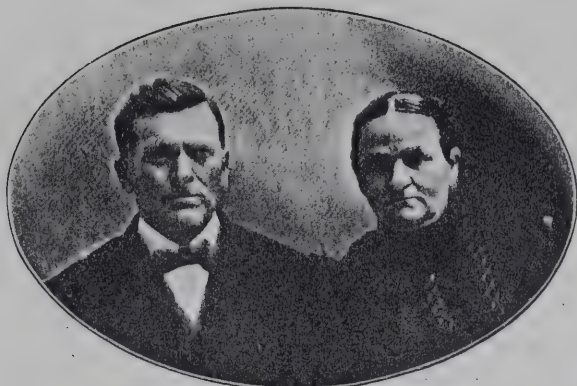


MR. AND MRS. JACOB S. BUHRER  
Archbold, O.

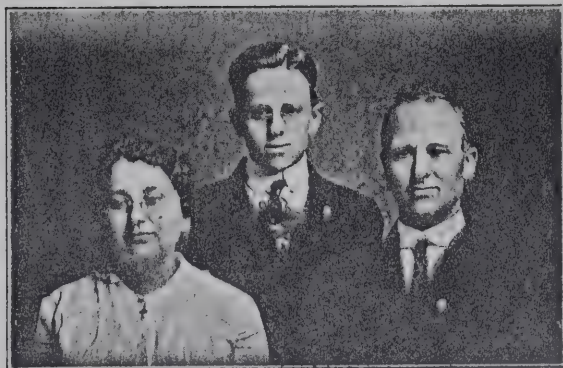


JOHN BUEHRER, JR., AND FAMILY  
Archbold, O.





MR. AND MRS. JACOB B. BUEHRER  
Evansport, O.



CARL BUEHRER AND FAMILY  
Topeka, Kan.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN AND LIZZIE BUEHRER  
Stryker, O.





MRS. JACOB F. BUEHRER  
Enterprise, Kan.



JACOB F. BUEHRER  
Enterprise, Kan.

- (3.) Calvin H., married and has one child, Carmen.
- (4.) Rose.
- (5.) Carolyne.
- (6.) Osee, a public school teacher.
- (7.) Matilda, the widow of Aaron Rupp, has one child, Thelma.

2. JACOB (Seiler"), like his brother John, came from Switzerland with his parents in 1854. He married Agnes Gasche, of William County O. To this union were born:

- (1.) Carl B., Topeka, Kan.
- (2.) Henry, married I. Spies.
- (3.) Wilfred.
- (4.) Hannah.
- (5.) Addie, married to H. Beaverson.
- (6.) Flory, married to C. Frank.
- (7.) Martha, Mrs. J. Arnos.
- (8.) Harry.
- (9.) Armada.
- (10.) Owen.

3. CONRAD, who married C. Spies, has eight surviving children: John, Hannah, Ben, Ernie, Emil, Susie, Claudie and Verna. All living in Ohio.

4. ANDREW, married to Miss M. Werder, has five surviving children: Henry, Amos, Godfried, Katherine, Lizzie.

5. GOTTFRIED.

6. KATIE, Mrs. M. Theobold.

7. LIZZIE, Mrs. J. Buhner.

8. CAROLINE, married to Geo. Weber. They have five children: BERTHA, HULDA, CLARENCE, EMANUEL, SEVA and EARL B. was born and raised in Ohio, and in 1897 was married to Clara Sigg, of Henry County, Ohio. In 1893 he entered the jewelry business in Evansport, then in Leipsic, O., and now resides in Topeka, Kans., as an ophthalmist.



IX. JACOB BUHRER (SCHUMACHER) was born in Bibern, Canton Schaffhausen, Switzerland, in 1821. In 1863 he emigrated with his family (wife and children, Gottfried, Ursula, Marie) to America. After eight years of hard labor in the woods of Fulton County, Ohio, they moved on a 160-acre prairie farm, near Enterprise, Dickerson County, Kansas, where he finished his life's career in 1902. His children are:

1. JACOB F. was born in Switzerland, accompanied his father to Kansas, where in 1871 he bought 160 acres of land for \$3.00 per acre, which is now worth \$100.00 per acre. After the death of his wife Heriatta Weckerly, he was remarried to Sophia Staatz, the third white child born in Dickerson County, Kan., a strong settlement of Indians. J. F. is now a prosperous banker and hardware dealer, and the owner of a 300-acre farm in Dickerson County. Only two of his children are living, i. e., Marie and Ruth.

2. URSALA also came to Ohio with her parents, and in 1866 was married to C. Merilatt. In 1870 they moved to Kansas, and at present reside on a large farm near Enterprise. Their children are:

(1) PETER.

(2) CHRISTIAN.

(3) GRANT, of Winfield, Iowa.

(4) JOHN, of St. Mary's, Kan.

(5) GEORGE, of Great Bend, Kan.

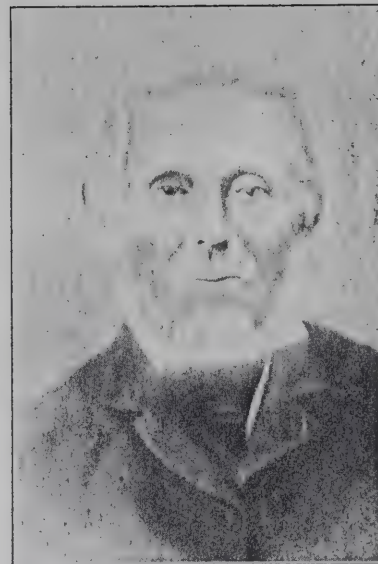
(6) FRED, of Enterprise, Kan.

(7) ANNA (Mrs. G. Wilson), in Ottawa, Kan.

(8) CHRISTINA (Mrs. Galloway), of Joplin, Mo.

(9) LYDIA (Mrs. Taylor), in Fredonia, Kan.

3. GOTTFRIED, also came to Ohio from Switzerland, and in 1863 took up his abode in Chapman, Kan., where he raised nine children. (1) ALBERT, (2) WALTER, (3) ARNOLD, (4) THEODORE, (5) ARTHUR, (6) RAYMOND, (7) EMERY, (8) ESTHER, (9) VERNA, to whom the father divided his 2,100 acres of land. He died in 1911.



MARTIN BUEHRER  
Williams County, O.



4. MARIA is married in Kansas, to J. J. Miller. They have three children living, i e., Emma, Anna, Mary.

X. JACOB BUHRER (cooper by trade), died 1848 in Bibern, Switzerland. His children were:

1. Michael; 2. Elizabeth; 3. Anna.

(4.) JACOB, Jr., came to the United States, circa 1852, and located on a farm in Fulton County, O. His children were John, Martin, Jacob.

(5.) JOHN, Jr., his son, was born in 1845, and moved from Ohio to Lawrence County, Michigan, on a farm. His children are, Henry, Helen, Mildred, Barbara, Clara (Mrs. Hood), Maud, Moreman, Ranold, Louen Maggie (Mrs. Schmidt), Louisa, Walter and Frank.

(6.) MARTIN, born in Switzerland in 1823, was a cooper near Luzern, and served under General Dufour in the war of 1848. He was married in 1850, and in 1883 together with his children emigrated to Ohio. They located in Williams County, Ohio, where the father died in 1890. His children are:

(1.) Jacob, came to the United States in 1872 and was killed by a falling tree in Missouri in 1876.

(2.) Anna, died in infancy.

(3.) Verena (Mrs. Seiler) on a farm in Fulton County, where her daughter Hulda, is a school teacher.

(4.) Ursula (Mrs. Scherrer), on a farm in Williams County. Their children are Albert and Samuel.

(5.) John, in 1892, went to California as a gold miner, where he died in 1897.

(6.) Martin is a prosperous farmer in William County, married in 1891 to M. Miller. Their children are Alfred, Hermann, Lizzie, John and Clarence.

(7.) Mary (Mrs. Schlatter), lives in Defiance, Ohio.

(8.) William, born 1861, a graduate from the high school in Tayingen, was clerk in general store in Schaffhausen, and in 1882 a graduate of the military academy in Zurich; in the following year served as corporal in the Swiss army.



JACOB B. SCHLATTER AND FAMILY  
Defiance, O.



WM. BUEHRER AND FAMILY  
Archbold, O.





JACOB BUEHRER  
Bibern, Switzerland



MRS. HENRY KLECK  
Archbold, O.

- (1.) WYLETTIE.
- (2.) STEWARD, of Bellflower, Cal.
- (3.) VIRGINIA.

In 1877 the family moved to Daird City, Nebraska. His wife having died in 1874, he was remarried to Katie Kazisek, in 1878. This union was blest with the children:

- (1.) EDWARD B., born 1882, died 1912, in Waitsburg, Wash.
- (2.) MARY (Mrs. Land), born 1883.
- (3.) FRANCES A., died 1903.

5. KATHERINE, with her sister.

6. BARBARA and her son JACOB ISLER, came to America in 1872. Jacob I. still resides on a farm in Williams County, Ohio.

7. ANNA and ELIZABETH became deaconesses in Basel, Switzerland.

XIII. ADAM BUHRER, tailor in Bibern, Switzerland, is the father of Adam and Joseph.

XIV. GEORGE BUHRER, butcher in Hofen, Canton Schaffhausen.

XV. .... BUHRER OELER, of Bibern, Switzerland.

### Section III: Hofen

This is the third village in the Canton of Schaffhausen from which the Buhrers migrated. This territory, prior to 1798, belonged to the Castle of Herblingen and to the bailiff of Stoffel. Hofen was a manor which, in 1538, was sold by Gaukroz to Stoffel for 775 gulden, when it became a part of the city of Schaffhausen. In 1798 it was a village of "five houses with a population of 10 men and 50 women and children; while in 1869 its total population was 142."

Following is the genealogy of the Buhrers of this village:



following children: Jacob, born 1857; Gottfried, born 1861; Wilhelm, born 1865; Ursala, born 1859, and Maria, born 1863.

4. ELIZABETH.

5. JACOB.

V. GEORGE BUHRER, of Hofen, had a son Jacob, who emigrated to Mexico, from whence he returned as a very wealthy man, to Switzerland, where he spent the rest of his days.

VI. JACOB BUHRER, the blacksmith, of Hofen, had two children, Jacob, Jr., and Elizabeth.

1. JACOB, Jr., emigrated to Ohio in 1854, and was married to Ursala Buhner. Their children were: Martin, Jacob, John, and Elizabeth.

(1) MARTIN, in 1862, enlisted in the 64th Ohio Regiment of Volunteers and served three years in the civil war, and enlisted again in 1864. He was married to Maria Fischer in 1866, and lived on a farm near Fulton County, Ohio. They are now retired in Archbold, O. This union was blest with the following children:

JACOB, married to Lina Gipe, is in the furniture business in Archbold, O. Their offsprings are:

- (a) CLARENCE.
- (b) GLADIS.
- (c) HERMA.
- (d) EDWIN.
- (e) CAROLINE
- (f) HANNA
- (g) ELIZABETH, Mrs. Nofzinger.

#### Section 4: Lohn

This village is situated in the center of the Hegau territory in the Canton Schaffhausen, and in 1235 was part of the "Frauen Kloster," under whose jurisdiction it remained until the 16th century.



JACOB BUEHRER  
Archbold, O.



In 1798 this village consisted of 37 houses with a population of 65 men and 183 women and children. The total population in 1868 was 437.

The Buhrer genealogy of this village is the following:

I. HANS BUHRER, born in 1813, had two children:

1. JOHANN (b. 1820).

2. JACOB was educated in the "Basler Missionhaus" and sent to India as missionary, where he labored with signal blessings for thirty-five years, and died in the 73d year of his life. His two children are still in the mission service in India.

II. The other heads of families in this village were Andreas, Ulerich, Johannes and Jacob, Jr., during the 19th century.

### Section 5: Opfershofen

This village in 1497 belonged to two brothers of Ryschach, who sold it under the jurisdiction of the bailiwick Nellenburg.

In 1507 it was donated to the "Paradies Kloster," and in 1529, during the upheavals of the Reformation, it was transferred, together with Lohn and Aldorf, to the city of Schaffhausen, from which the Kloster received an annual tribute until the Kloster was closed in 1784. The "Vercenencastle" in this territory is known until this day. In 1811 it was transferred by the lords of Thengen in the province of Baden.

There were only 19 houses to this village in 1798, and they were occupied by 31 men and 72 women and children, whereas in 1869 the population was 201. Of this village were: 1, Stephan Buhrer and his children; Stephen, Michael, Sr., George and Esther.

I. MICHAEL BUEHRER, Sr., was born in Opfershofen, March 1, 1789. In the year 1817 he was mar-



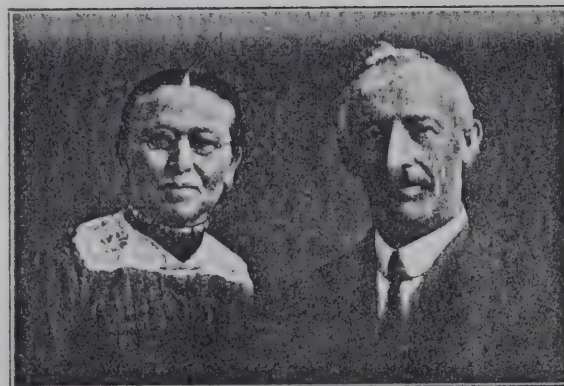
MICHAEL BUEHRER, JR.  
Archbold, O.



up a profitable business and trade, they failed from year to year, and gradually lost nearly their entire estate. During these years sickness also visited their home frequently. The owners of these two factories were: Johannes Fuchs of Hofen, Jacob Schlatter of Buettenhat, George Ehrat of Lohn, and Michael Buehrer of Opfershofen.

In 1872 this family bade farewell to their dear old home in Switzerland, and sailed for America. The whole family, namely: grandfather Michael Buehrer, Sr., (who on the day of their departure was 83 years old), father Michael Buehrer, Jr., his wife and four children left for America on the first day of March. Their route was by way of Basel, Paris, Havre, Liverpool, to New York, and from there to the newly settled spot of Archbold, Ohio. They arrived at Archbold on the 29th of the same month, having been on their way 29 days. Conrad Kutzli, uncle of Mrs. Michael Buehrer, received the Michael Buehrer family into his home for two weeks, and treated them with all cordiality. On the first day of July, 1872, they moved on a farm of forty acres in Ridgeville Township, Henry County, which they purchased for \$1.075. Having lost all their money in the old country, they stood in debt for the whole amount. Of these forty acres only nine were cleared, the rest was covered with heavy timber.

The following ten years were years of hardship, and cost the sweat of the earnest brow to clear the land of its timber and to provide for the daily bread of the family. The two daughters, Anna and Susanna, started a millinery store in the small village of Evansport. They worked hard, but not without success. For the past 10 years they lived together in retirement enjoying the fruits of their labors. Within the past year Susanna departed to her eternal reward.



MR. AND MRS. JOHN N. BUEHRER  
Napoleon, O.



Grandfather Michael Buehrer, Sr., died January 12th, 1875, having reached the venerable age of 85 years, 10 months and 12 days. Michael Buehrer, Jr., and wife, with their daughter Ursula, and their son Johannes, remained on the farm. Acre by acre they cleared the farm of its heavy timber, tilled the soil and improved the buildings.

Johannes, their son, was married to Anna Buehrer, daughter of Jacob Buehrer, "Beck of Bibera," on the 15th day of January, 1885. To them were born three sons and three daughters:

Walter, born November 7th, 1885.

Emil, born March 11th, 1889.

Samuel, born September 21st, 1890.

Louisa, born July 3d, 1887.

Lydia, born October 9th, 1891.

Sophia, born June 26th, 1894.

Father Michael Buehrer died May 21st, 1903, at the age of 76 years, 10 months and 20 days; mother Anna Buehrer died July 12th, 1906, at the age of 81 years, 8 months and 26 days; sister Ursula died January 11th, at the age of 58 years; Susanna died November 12, 1915, age 60 years, 11 months.

In the year 1897 Johannes Buehrer bought the old farm of his father Michael Buehrer, which farm he later enlarged to 104 acres. All the six children grew up on this farm.

On February 27th, 1908, his oldest son Walter, farmer, was married to Etty Roddy, daughter of Frank Roddy. Three years later, April 19, 1911, his oldest daughter Louisa, was married to Adam Schlatterer, farmer. To them were born two children:

Ruth, born October 19th, 1912.

Edward, born October 18th, 1914.

EMIL, the second son, studied at the Mission House College and Theological Seminary. He successfully passed the examination in the Toledo Classis of the Reformed Church and was licensed by said Classis. On July 20th, he began his ministry at Oshkosh, Wis. Lydia attended high school and a summer term at both Tiffin and Tri-State College. She spent some years as school-mistress. Samuel, the youngest son, and Sophia, the youngest daughter, are still on the farm with their parents.

III. GEORGE BUHRER had three children; (1) Johannes; (2) Esther; (3) Catherina.

IV. JOHANNES (1800-1868) had eleven children, three of whom (1) George, (2) John, (3) Conrad, came to America and settled with the early pioneers in Williams County.

(1.) GEORGE (1834-1914) received a common school education, then learned the tailor trade. In company with twenty-three other Buhrers emigrated to America in 1854. They embarked for their long voyage at Havre, France, and were on the ocean over thirty days, and four days later George arrived in Archbold, O. Here he did for five years whatever his hands could find to do for an honest living. In 1861 he was married to Deborah Coy. In the same year they moved in the pioneer settlement referred to above. Three sons were born to them:

(1.) JOHN A., who resides in Stryker, O.

(2.) WILLIAM H., of Salem, Calif.

(3.) OLIVER, deceased, 1906, leaving widow and two children.

George's wife died in 1869, and he married again. His second wife is Antionett Batterson. By this marriage four sons and two daughters were born to them:

LEWIS C., of Butler, Ind.; ALBERT A., of Asheville, N. C.; CHARLES S., SARAH (Mrs. Durbin), ANNA (Mrs. Arnsberger, of Stryker, O., and CYRUS, of San Diego, Calif.





GEORGE BUEHLER  
Stryker, O.



REV. EMIL BUEHLER  
Oshkosh, Wis.

V. A. BUHRER, the shoemaker of Opfenshofen.

VI. KASPER BUHRER, who died in the war at Neapel, Italy.

VII. JOHANNES, who had four children: (1) Andreas, (2) Jacob, (3) Kasper, (4) John; who are all engaged in the tile factory in Constanz, Germany.



## CHAPTER XI

### Strangers Abroad

The official daily paper of Schaffhausen, under date of August 13, 1870, says: "During the past 50 years 82 families emigrated from the Canton Schaffhausen, some to India, others to Africa, but the large majority to North America."

"Here have we no continued city, but we seek one to come." Heb. 14:14.

Switzerland, ancient Helvetia, was conquered by the Romans in 15 B. C., and successively subjected to the Burgundians, Germans and Franks. The Canton Schwitz was peopled by the Cimbrians, of Scandinavia, who were defeated by Marius, the Roman general, in 100 B. C. In 1308 the three cantons, Uri, Schwitz and Schwietz (from which the Republic later received its name) formed a confederacy. In 1353 it numbered 8 cantons. The confederacy of 13 cantons was increased by the adherence of several subject territories until 1798, when it became the Helvetian Republic. In 1809 Napoleon organized a new confederacy of 19 cantons, which was modified in 1815 and increased to 22 cantons. The position of Switzerland is unique. It is the oldest republic in the world, and maintained itself not by the acquisition of territory, population, or military power, but by its inherent powers and the jealousy of surrounding nations. Its area is 15,976 square miles, and its population was never over 3,000,000, smaller than the State of New York. But with all that, home sickness, "Heimweh" of the Swiss is proverbial. Very few of them, who by force of circumstances or interest for their descendants, driven to seek abode in foreign countries did not suffer terribly of that disease "Heimweh," oft for decades.

In the recent issue of a California paper we read: "Rev. Heinie, of Luzern, Switzerland, age 35, died here today in consequence of 'Heimweh' for his fatherland." In spite of the fact that this man by vocation, as a servant of the Kingdom of God, was a world citizen, he remained a stranger in the foreign land.

This truth is forcefully expressed in their popular songs, "Zu Strassburg auf der Schanz da ging mein Trauren an," and "Der Hirtenbub ist doch Schuld daran," and "Das Alphorn hat mir solches angethan Das Klag ich an." This song, with its sad pensive melody, truly expresses the homesickness of the Swiss heart abroad. The writer well remembers winter evenings of his childhood days, when in the log cabin in Henry County, O., his father, together with a few neighboring Swiss friends, would sing their songs of the Fatherland for hours, to relieve their yearning hearts, and the melodies would echo for miles out into the forests. As a child he could not understand why these songs so often would make the tears trickle down the cheeks of the manly singers, and why their voices choked and we all wept together. The writer also remembers how in his college days a young emigrated Swiss could entertain the student body in their literary society all evening with his charming voice and gift to yodel, while tears sparkled in his eyes. He sang from the soul in the distress of Heimweh. He who has never in his boyhood days, hundreds of miles away from home, heard "Home Sweet Home," cannot realize what is meant by "Heimweh." Blood is thicker than water. And that Swiss, in whose veins for centuries flowed the blood and life for freedom, light and peace, is a stranger wherever he goes in this world. The cosmopolitan knows nothing of this as does the simple son of nature, reared in the solitudes, of mountains,—heights, and rich valleys of the Alps.

The Swiss has developed a manifold activity in America. His strong, well trained physique, spirit of economy, simple life, temperate habits and his linguistic ability, make him a ready, useful citizen in the new world. He is known here as a skilled watchmaker, mason, sculptor, woodcarver, architect, educator, preacher, etc. Some of the Swiss received more than national reputations, viz.: Drs. Agassiz, Pestalozzi, Schaaf, Kurz, Good, etc. From 1861 to 1871, there arrived in Castle Garden no less than 22,519 Swiss. They are usually found in colonies throughout the States. This is especially true of the Buhrers, of whom there are over 6000 in Northwestern Ohio, thus Demonstrating their motto: "We would be a united brotherhood whom neither danger nor death can separate." They have always been a blessing to the United States, therefore Uncle Sam never raised a finger against their coming, no matter how large the number.



JUNE 12

DEAR SIR/MS.:

I ENCLOSE A COPY OF  
A BOOK WRITTEN SIXTY-ONE YEARS  
AGO, ABOUT AN OHIO FAMILY  
LIVING IN NORTHWEST OHIO.

THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY  
MY GREAT-UNCLE, REV. JAMES O.  
BUHRER. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING  
THE BOOK, AS AN APPARENTLY  
PRIVATELY PRINTED BOOK, WAS  
ALSO PRIVATELY DISTRIBUTED.  
THUS, IT NEVER MADE ITS  
WAY INTO LIBRARIES WITHIN

OHIO. WITHIN THE LAST SEVERAL  
MONTHS, I HAVE BEEN MAKING  
CAREFUL BOOK COPIES, AND  
SENDING THEM TO NORTHERN  
OHIO LIBRARIES.

REV. BUHRER GAVE A FIGURE  
OF BUHRERS IN OHIO IN 1916.  
IT MAY BE SOME DESCENDANTS  
HAVE CROSSED INTO INDIANA  
AND RESIDE IN YOUR COUNTY.

THUS, I HOPE THIS FAMILY  
HISTORY WILL HAVE FUTURE  
POTENTIAL. A FAMILY ADDRESS  
I CAN ALWAYS BE CONTACTED  
15 - 7218 WEST ROUTE 53  
URBANA, OHIO 43078

THANK YOU. RESPECTFULLY,  
Paul K. Kull

JUNE 12

DEAR SIR/MS.:

I ENCLOSE A COPY OF  
A BOOK WRITTEN SIXTY-ONE YEARS  
AGO, ABOUT AN OHIO FAMILY  
LIVING IN NORTHWEST OHIO.

THE BOOK WAS WRITTEN BY  
MY GREAT-UNCLE, REV. JAMES O.  
BURNER. IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING  
THE BOOK, AS AN APPARENTLY  
PRIVATELY PRINTED BOOK, WAS  
ALSO PRIVATELY DISTRIBUTED.  
THUS, IT NEVER MADE ITS  
WAY INTO LIBRARIES WITHIN





## Eckhart Public Library

603 S. Jackson Street Auburn, IN 46706  
Phone: 219-925-2414

Patron is responsible for all  
material borrowed.







OHIO. WITHIN THE LAST SEVERAL  
MONTHS, I HAVE BEEN MAKING  
CAREFUL BOOK COPIES, AND  
SENDING THEM TO NORTHERN  
OHIO LIBRARIES.

REV. BUHRER GAVE A FIGURE  
OF BUHRERS IN OHIO IN 1916.  
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